

DOE News Release
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INL, Idaho State Police sign agreement to increase patrols on highways going to Site

Idaho National Laboratory and the Idaho State Police have signed an agreement that will increase the number of ISP patrols on sections of U.S. highways 20 and 26 and state highway 33 that go to the desert Site.

This agreement is part of INL's 2005 Safe Driving Campaign that was started in January in cooperation with the ISP.

The extra patrols will be in addition to the normal patrols ISP performs along the three state highways and will be on a random basis. ISP officers will be monitoring for all traffic violations, and will not make a distinction between Site employees and the public who may be stopped and cited for violations. The extra patrols will begin the last week of April and continue at least through the rest of 2005.

Steve Thorne, division director for INL Occupational Safety and Health, noted that two keys to traffic safety are education and enforcement. "We started the education this past January when we kicked off our safe driving campaign," Thorne said. That involved a strong promotion effort at the laboratory, and the local media also carried that message to the public. The traffic safety campaign, which kicked off in January, demonstrated that we can have a positive impact on unsafe driving habits. The challenge for each of us is making safe driving behavior permanent. By partnering with the Idaho State Police and increasing their presence on the roadways to and from work, we are reinforcing to everyone to drive safely all the time, every time."

Capt. Danny Bunderson, Idaho State Police, noted, "The agreement will enable ISP to provide additional patrol resources in an effort to curb aggressive driving incidents that contribute to crashes. Moreover, it will provide traffic safety for all motorists and above of all, save lives."

Thorne said, "Ultimately, we want everyone leaving and returning home to their families safe and sound."

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